

1. (Amended) A latch assembly for releasably securing a first member in a closed position relative to a second member, one of said first member and said second member having a keeper in a fixed positional relationship therewith, the latch assembly comprising:

an elongate housing having sidewalls thereto and a hook-like shaped member extending outwardly transversely thereto from an outside of a said sidewall thereof;

a pawl pivotally attached to the housing and being movable between a closed and or engaged configuration and an open or disengaged configuration position, the pawl being provided with a torsion spring member that biases the pawl toward the open position or disengaged configuration;

a solenoid supported within by the housing and operating parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof; and

a locking member extending from said solenoid parallel to the longitudinal axis of the housing and actuated by said solenoid, the locking member being movable to selectively intercept the pivotal path of the pawl between extended and retracted positions;

wherein when the pawl extends outwardly from said housing transversely to the longitudinal axis thereof and in adjacent proximity to said housing hook-like shaped member impacts the keeper during closing of the first and second members together, the pawl is moved to the closed configuration, a lug projecting from the pawl being engaged by the locking member to retain the pawl in the closed configuration, and

wherein retracting the locking member by energizing the solenoid, allows the pawl to rotate under spring bias to the open configuration to thereby allow the latch to be disengaged from the keeper.

2. (Withdrawn under requirement for restriction)

3. (Amended) The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing includes an opening in a sidewall thereof, the pawl operating through this opening and being mounted for the pivoting movement at a point outside of the sidewall of the housing said pawl member is arranged perpendicular with said housing.

4. (Withdrawn under requirement for restriction)

5. (Withdrawn under requirement for restriction)

6. (Withdrawn under requirement for restriction)

7. (New) The latch assembly of claim 3, wherein the pawl is mounted to the hook-like shaped member for pivoting, the mounting location being outside of the sidewall from which the hook-like shaped member extends.

8. (New) The latch assembly of claim 7, wherein the hook-like shaped member is bifurcated having a pair of spaced apart hook-shaped flanges.

9. (New) The latch assembly of claim 8, wherein each of the hook-shaped flanges carries recession, these recessions being juxtaposed, and wherein the pawl has a pair of pivot spindles extending from opposite sides of the pawl, the pawl being snapably mountable into the hook-shaped flange recessions.

10. (New) The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the locking member carries a collar at a point along the extension thereof.

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11. (New) The latch assembly of claim 10, also including a spring positioned inboard of the locking member collar and operating against the solenoid from which the locking member extends to bias the locking member to extend outwardly from the solenoid.

12. (New) The latch assembly of claim 9, wherein the locking member carries a collar at a point along the extension thereof.

13. (New) The latch assembly of claim 12, also including a spring positioned inboard of the locking member collar and operating against the solenoid from which the locking member extends to bias the locking member to extend outwardly from the solenoid.

14. (New) The latch assembly of claim 13, also including lateral tabs, one each extending from each of the hook-shaped flanges.

15. (New) The latch assembly of claim 14, wherein each of the lateral tabs is positioned on the outboard face of the respective hook-shaped flange.

16. (New) A latch assembly for releasably securing a first member to a second member, said second member having a keeper in a fixed positional relationship therewith, the latch assembly comprising:

an elongate housing having sidewalls thereto and a hook-like shaped member extending outwardly transversely thereto from an outside of a said sidewall thereof;  
a pawl pivotally attached to said housing and pivotably movable between a closed position and an open position, said pawl engaging said keeper in said closed position;  
a spring member biasing said pawl to said open position; and  
means positioned within said housing and operating parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof for intercepting the pivotal movement of said pawl for holding said pawl in said closed position;  
wherein said pawl extends outwardly from said housing transversely to said longitudinal axis thereof and in adjacent proximity to said housing hook-like shaped member.

17. (New) The latch assembly of claim 16, wherein the housing includes an opening in a sidewall thereof, the pawl operating through this opening and being mounted for the pivoting movement at a point outside of the sidewall of the housing.

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18. (New) The latch assembly of claim 17, wherein the pawl is mounted to the hook-like shaped member for pivoting, the mounting location being outside of the sidewall from which the hook-like shaped member extends.

19. (New) The latch assembly of claim 18, wherein the hook-like shaped member is bifurcated having a pair of spaced apart hook-shaped flanges.

20. (New) The latch assembly of claim 19, wherein each of the hook-shaped flanges carries a recession, these recessions being juxtaposed, and wherein the pawl has a pair of pivot spindles extending from opposite sides of the pawl, the pawl being snapably mountable into the hook-shaped flange recessions.

21. (New) The latch assembly of claim 20, wherein said intercepting and holding means includes:

a solenoid supported within said housing and operating parallel to said longitudinal axis thereof; and

a locking member extending from said solenoid parallel to said longitudinal axis of said housing and actuated by said solenoid, said locking member being movable to selectively intercept said pivotably movable pawl.

22. (New) A latch assembly for engaging a keeper, comprising:

an elongate housing having sidewalls thereto and a hook-like shaped member extending outwardly transversely to the longitudinal axis of said housing, said hook-like shaped member being connected to an outside of a said sidewall of said housing;

a pawl pivotally attached to said housing and pivotably movable between a first position and a second position, said pawl engaging said keeper in said second position; and

means positioned within said housing and operating parallel to said longitudinal axis thereof for intercepting the pivotal movement of said pawl thereby prohibiting said pawl from pivoting;

wherein said pawl extends outwardly from said housing transversely to said longitudinal axis thereof and in adjacent proximity to said housing hook-like shaped member.

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